

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.**

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Dear members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Eduvina Ortiz. I am from Guatemala and have lived in Hartford for 10 years. I am a member of Hartford Deportation Defense and I'm in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

My daughter is 15 years old and was born in Guatemala so she doesn't have health insurance. I have hardly taken her to the doctor because it is not easy to pay. Luckily she is in good health, and at school she is getting her vaccinations. As a mother, you worry about not taking her to the doctor and not being able to pay for the bills that come in. That's why we need your help with HUSKY.

In my case, after I had my baby they found a lump in my stomach. At my 6 week postpartum checkup, the doctor told me that I had to check with a specialist to see if it was serious because they weren't sure what it was. From there I went to Hartford Hospital. For the first consultation I had to pay \$184 before they would do the test I needed. I was told I had nothing, and if I had any pain to come back for an ultrasound. While I was waiting for the result, I thought it could be something serious or that I would have to undergo surgery, and I know that surgery is expensive.

That is why we ask you to support S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Because our children need HUSKY insurance, and they also need us, their parents, with health.

Thank you,  
Eduvina Ortiz